ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In the Matter of the Money Transmitter License of:

ALTAMIMI CASH LLC d/b/a ALTAMIMI CASH AND AQEEL ALTAMIMI, MANAGING MEMBER

3411 W. Northern Avenue, Suite F Phoenix, Arizona 85051

Respondents.

No. 15F-BD-165-SBD

CONSENT ORDER

AND

CONSENT TO LICENSE REVOCATION

On January 23, 2015, the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions ("Department") initiated examination of Respondent Altamimi Cash LLC d/b/a Altamimi Cash, a licensed money transmitter owned and managed by Respondent Aquel Altamimi (collectively, "Respondents"), in the course of which the Department found violations of the Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") governing the conduct of money transmitters. Respondents consent to the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and consent to the entry of the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent Altamimi Cash LLC d/b/a Altamimi Cash ("Respondent Company") is an Arizona limited liability company that has been organized on or about December 17, 2013, and has been authorized to transact business in Arizona as a money transmitter, License Number #0926404, within the meaning of A.R.S. § 6-1201 et seq.
- 2. Respondent Aquel Altamimi ("Mr. Altamimi") is the Managing Member of the Respondent Company who, according to the Department's records, is the sole owner of the Respondent Company.
- 3. The nature of business conducted by Respondent Company and Mr. Altamimi is that of a money transmitter within the meaning of A.R.S. § 6-1201(11).
- 4. During the examination, it was discovered that Respondent Company failed to keep and use in its business books, accounts and records in accordance with generally accepted

accounting principles ("GAAP").1 Further, Respondent Company did not have a business bank account and was using Mr. Altamimi's own personal bank account to facilitate money transmissions. Mr. Altamimi represented that Respondents were trying to establish a business account with Wells Fargo Bank, however, as of February 5, 2015, they were not able to open a business bank account. The examiner advised Respondents that all money transmission activity must cease immediately until a business account had been established for Altamimi Cash LLC.

- 5. Respondents failed to maintain records at Respondent Company's place of business, and did not designate any other location with the Department regarding the location of records as it related to Respondent Company's money transmission license. Specifically, during the course of the examination on January 23, 2015, the examiner requested all policies and procedures as well as training documents to be reviewed for compliance with A.R.S., Title 6, Chapter 12. Mr. Altamimi stated he could not provide the requested materials because they were at a different location. Subsequently, the materials and documents were provided on February 2, 2015.
- 6. Respondents failed to document the street address of the location where money was received for transmission.
- 7. Respondents failed to create policies and procedures that promoted compliance with A.R.S., Title 6, Chapter 12, Title 13, Chapter 23 and 31 United States Code section 5318, including the identification of the provider, the material and instruction that were provided.
- 8. During the examination, Respondents were unable to provide all policies and procedures for review in accordance with Title 6, Chapter 12. Specifically, Mr. Altamimi advised the examiner that the documents were at another location. The requested documents were provided on February 2, 2015. Upon review of the provided materials, the examiner determined the policies

¹ The GAAP's business entity concept requires accounting for a business or organization be kept separate from the personal affairs of its owner, or from any other business or organization. An owner of a business should not place any personal assets on the business balance sheet. The balance sheet of the business must reflect the financial position of the business alone. Also, when transactions of the business are recorded, any personal expenditures of the owner are charged to the owner and are not allowed to affect the operating results of the business.

provided were not those of Respondent Company, to which Mr. Altamimi responded by stating that he did not prepare the policies.

- 9. Respondents were not able to produce records of the Arizona specific training for its employees.
- 10. Respondents failed to have a specific policy regarding the acceptance of anything of value or "tips" in connection with a money transmission transaction.
- 11. Following the conclusion of the January 23, 2015 examination, and before the Department issued an administrative action, Mr. Altamimi requested a meeting with the examiners for purposes of surrendering Respondent Company's license and provided the following information regarding the activities of the Amar E. El Tahir (a/k/a Eltahir, hereinafter referred to as "Mr. El Tahir"), who acted as Respondent Company's employee and/or manager, as follows:
 - a. Mr. Altamimi hired Mr. El Tahir sometime in August 2014, to help him with the transactions and to spread the word about Altamimi's money transmittal business.²
 - b. At some point, Mr. Altamimi discovered that Mr. El Tahir was performing money transmitting business activities without compliance with the recording and reporting requirements of applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Mr. Altamimi claims that he confronted Mr. El Tahir and requested that Mr. El Tahir conduct all activities in compliance with the recording and reporting requirements (i.e., gather all required information such as name, address, copy of identification for each transaction) if he was using the Respondent Company's name to complete the transactions, or to stop these activities. However, Mr. El Tahir refused to comply, causing Mr. Atlamimi contact the Department with a request to surrender Respondent Company's license.

² Mr. Altamimi claims that Mr. El Tahir started out as an employee but then purchased 50% interest in the Respondent Company; however, Mr. Altamimi has not notified the Department of the change in ownership, if any, and, according to the Arizona Corporation Commission's records, Mr. El Tahir does not have ownership interest in Respondent Company.

- c. Mr. Altamimi was not able to provide more information about the extent of Mr. El Tahir's unauthorized activities conducted under the name of Respondent Company, other than there were at least 40 transactions completed without required documentation and that some were over \$10,000 in funds sent through Dubai.
- 12. Respondents failed to meet a prerequisite to continuing to do business as a money transmitter, by failing to maintain a surety bond deposited with the Superintendent. Specifically:
 - a. On or about January 20, 2015, the Department received a Cancellation Notice ("Bond Cancellation Notice") from Platte River Insurance Company, dated January 13, 2015, stating that the bonding company elected to cancel Respondent Company's surety bond, number 41288670, in its entirety.
 - b. On February 6, 2015, the Department sent a letter via email to Respondents, addressed to the attention of Mr. Altamimi at the email address of record (aqeelaltamimi@yahoo.com), informing Respondents of the Department's receipt of the Bond Cancellation Notice, indicating that Platte River Insurance Company's surety bond was cancelled. The Department warned Respondents that a lapse in bond coverage was a serious violation, and requested that Respondents provide a copy of the original bond or bond rider reinstating surety bond coverage or surrender their license.
 - c. On April 13, 2015, the Department sent its second letter via email to Respondents, addressed to the attention of Mr. Altamimi requesting that Respondents provide a copy of the original bond or bond rider reinstating surety bond coverage or surrender their license.
 - d. Respondents have not been able to reinstate bond coverage with another insurance company, instead seeking to surrender Respondent Company's license.
 - 13. These Findings of Fact shall also serve as Conclusions of Law.

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LAW

- 1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-1201 *et seq.*, the Superintendent has the authority and duty to regulate all persons engaged in the business as transmitters of money and with the enforcement of statutes, rules and regulations relating to money transmitters, including check cashers.
- 2. By the conduct set forth in the Findings of Fact, Respondent has committed violations of the following statutes:
 - a. A.R.S. § 6-1213(A) by failing to keep and use its business books, accounts, and records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and by failing to have an established business bank account.
 - b. A.R.S. § 6-1213(C) by failing to keep all records at its principal place of business.
 - c. A.R.S. § 6-1215(B) by failing to document the street address of the location where the money was received.
 - d. A.R.S. § 6-1241(G) by failing to have definitions or other formal guidelines for reviewing transactions to uncover series or patterns of transaction designed to evade a reporting requirement within the policy, and by not having records of Arizona specific training for its employees.
 - e. A.R.S. § 13-2317(C)(1)(2) by failing to have a specific policy regarding the acceptance of anything of value or "tips" in connection with a money transmission transaction.
 - f. A.R.S. § 6-1216(A) by permitting Mr. El Tahar to acquire control of Respondent Company without the prior written approval of the superintendent.
 - g. A.R.S. § 6-1205 by failing to provide documentation regarding the reinstatement of their bond or documentation of a new surety bond, required in order to conduct business as a money transmitter.
 - 14. The violations, set forth above, constitute grounds for (1) the issuance of an order

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25 26 pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-137 and A.R.S. § 6-1209 directing Respondents to cease and desist from the violative conduct and to take the appropriate affirmative actions, within a reasonable period of time prescribed by the Superintendent, to correct the conditions resulting from the unlawful acts, practices, and transactions; (2) the imposition of a civil monetary penalty pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-132 of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for each violation for each day; (3) the suspension or revocation of Respondents' license pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-1210; and (4) an order or any other remedy necessary or proper for the enforcement of statutes and rules regulating collection agencies pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 6-123 and 6-131.

ORDER

- 1. Money Transmitter License Number 0926404 issued in the name of Altamimi Cash LLC d/b/a Altamimi Cash is hereby revoked, effective immediately.
- 2. Respondents Altamimi Cash LLC and Mr. Altamimi shall immediately cease conducting all money transmitter activities in the State of Arizona.
- 3. Respondent Altamimi Cash LLC shall not at any time subsequently submit to the Department any application or re-application for a new or reinstated license.
- 4. Mr. Altamimi shall not at any time subsequently submit to the Department any application or reapplication for a new or reinstated license without the prior written consent of the Department, which consent may be withheld or conditioned in the discretion of the Department.
- Mr. Altamimi shall be prohibited from further participation in any manner in the 5. conduct of the affairs of any financial institution or enterprise, without the prior written consent of the Department, which consent may be withheld or conditioned in the discretion of the Department.
- 6. Mr. Altamimi shall not directly or indirectly, as an agent or principal, submit any such application for or on behalf of any other entity, nor shall she perform any services for any licensed entity without the prior written consent of the Department, which consent may be withheld or conditioned in the discretion of the Department.

| 7. | Respondents Altamimi Cash LLC and Mr. Altamimi shall pay to the Department the |
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| civil monet | ary penalty in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) pursuant to A.R.S. § 6 |
| 132. | |

- 8. Respondents Altamimi Cash LLC and Mr. Altamimi shall pay to the Department the examination fee in the amount of **one thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,950.00)**, pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-125.
- 9. Respondents Altamimi Cash LLC and Mr. Altamimi shall take all necessary actions to ensure that Amar E. El Tahir and any of Respondent Company's other agents or employees stop and/or are not able to use the name of Respondent Company ("Altamimi Cash LLC") in any of their dealings unauthorized by Respondents.
- 10. The provisions of this Order shall be binding upon Altamimi Cash LLC and Mr. Altamimi, their employees, agents, and other persons participating in the conduct of the affairs of Altamimi Cash LLC.
- 11. This Order shall become effective upon service, and shall remain effective and enforceable until such time as, and except to the extent that, it shall be stayed, modified, terminated or set aside.

Lauren W. Kingry

Superintendent of Financial Institutions

By: (_____

Robert D. Charlton Assistant Superintendent

CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

1. Respondents acknowledge that they have been served with a copy of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order in the above-referenced matter, have read the same, are aware of their right to an administrative hearing in this matter, and have waived the same.

- 2. Respondents admit the jurisdiction of the Superintendent and consent to the entry of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.
- 3. Respondents state that no promise of any kind or nature has been made to induce them to consent to the entry of this Order, and that they have done so voluntarily.
- 4. Respondents agree to immediately cease and desist from engaging in the violative conduct set forth above in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
- 5. Respondents state that they have ceased all money transmitter activities; and that the corporate affairs are in the process of winding down and are limited to purely administrative matters.
- 6. Respondents acknowledge that the acceptance of this Consent to Entry of Order by the Superintendent is solely to settle this matter and does not preclude this Department, any other agency or officer of this state or subdivision thereof from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.
- 7. Failure to correct the violations set forth above in this Order or any future findings of repeat violations may result in disciplinary action which may include a greater civil money penalty.
- 8. Aqeel Altamimi, on behalf of himself and Altamimi Cash LLC, represents that he is the Managing Member of Altamimi Cash LLC, and that, as such, has been authorized by Altamimi Cash LLC d/b/a Altamimi Cash to consent to the entry of this Order.
- 9. Respondents waive all rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of this Cease and Desist Order.

| DATED this | 96 | day of | 05 | , 2015. |
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| DATED uns | | uay or | | , 2013. |

Ageel Altamimi, Managing Member

Altamimi Cash LLC d/b/a Altamimi Cash

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this

NW , 2015, in the office of:

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| 1 | Lauren W. Kingry, Superintendent of Financial Institutions |
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| 2 | Arizona Department of Financial Institutions Attn: June Beckwith |
| 3 | 2910 N. 44th Street, Suite 310 Phoenix, AZ 85018 |
| 4 | JBeckwith@azdfi.gov |
| 5 | COPY mailed/delivered same date to: |
| 6 | Natalia A. Garrett, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General |
| | 1275 W. Washington St. |
| 7 | Phoenix, AZ 85007 Natalia.Garrett@azag.gov |
| 8 | Robert D. Charlton, Assistant Superintendent |
| 9 | Mark Murphy, Examiner-in-Charge Arizona Department of Financial Institutions |
| 10 | 2910 N. 44th Street, Suite 310 Phoenix, AZ 85018 |
| 11 | |
| 12 | COPY mailed and emailed same date, to: |
| 13 | Aqeel Altamimi, Managing Member Altamimi Cash LLC |
| 14 | 3411 W. Northern Avenue, Suite F Phoenix, AZ 85051 |
| 15 | Respondents ageelaltamimi@yahoo.com |
| | |
| 16 | Aqeel Altamimi, Managing Member Altamimi Cash LLC |
| 17 | 4045 W. Cochise Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85051 |
| 18 | Respondent |
| 19 | Amar El Tahir 1702 W. Tuckey Lane, Unit 204 |
| 20 | Phoenix, AZ 85015 |
| 21 | Statutory Agent for Altamimi Cash LLC |
| 22 | SMUH |
| 23 | #4476166 |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |
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